

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-109. (Cancelled)

110. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated allelic variant according to claim 105, wherein~~An isolated allelic variant consisting of GT dinucleotide repeats from nucleotide position 125 from 5' end of SEQ ID NO:1 of Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription-6 (STAT-6) gene for use in predicting susceptibility of a human subject to atopic asthma having haplotypes 17\_15 (CA repeat 17 on R1 locus and 15 on R3 locus of the STAT-6 gene having a 'p' value less than 0.0031) and 16-15 (CA repeat 16 on R1 locus and 15 on R3 locus of the STAT-6 gene having a 'p' value less than 0.001) are associated with susceptibility to asthma.

111.-116. (Cancelled)

117. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated allelic variant according to claim 105, wherein~~An isolated allelic variant consisting of GT dinucleotide repeats from nucleotide position 125 from 5' end of SEQ ID NO:1 of Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription-6 (STAT-6) gene for use in predicting susceptibility of a human subject to atopic asthma having haplotypes 17\_14 (CA repeat 17 on R1 locus and 14 on R3 locus of the STAT-6 gene having a 'p' value less than 0.00001), 23\_16 (CA repeat 23 on R1 locus and 16 on R3 locus of the STAT-6 gene having a 'p' value less than 0.00001) and 24\_16 (CA repeat 24 on R1 locus and 16 on R3 locus of the STAT-6 gene having a 'p' value less than 0.00001) are associated with protection from asthma.

118.-120. (Cancelled)